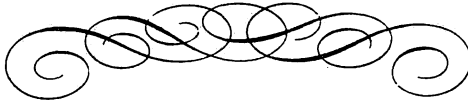
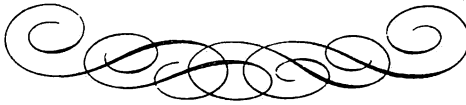


The History of



**Southborough
Massachusetts**

1727-1977



by

Priscilla R. Ritter

in recognition of the town's
Two Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary

Southborough Historical Commission
1977

The annual Town Meeting of 1976 appropriated \$5,000 to have the History of the Town of Southborough written. The samplings on this brochure give you some evidence of the progress of this work. The past year has been busy and we expect her work to be finished in the fall.

At that point we hope to publish this history and make it available for general sale.

It is our hope that the townspeople will support the efforts of your historical commission to make the above title page a reality.

SOUTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Samplings and landmarks in the History of Southborough

1727

July 24: Southborough's First Town Meeting: chose officers and selectmen to serve the new town. In no less than twelve succeeding meetings that first year, the Selectmen and townspeople decided on the location of the burying place, appropriated 300 pounds to build the Meeting House and 25 pounds to procure a minister, and successfully fought down dissention over the location of the Meeting House, to lay its foresill on the wintry day of November 25th nearly four months to the day after an auspicious beginning:

1759

The hitherto unpublished 'Brigham's Ballad' celebrates Southborough's Cap. Nathan Brigham and his company of foot who joined the renowned Robert's Rangers in an expedition to avenge the murderous attacks of the French and Indians on the Northern frontiers. After wiping out the village of St. Francois, the grueling return march left the heroic youth, Ebenezer Wheeler, dying on a mountaintop in faraway Vermont.



A 21095 Post Office & Masonic Bldg., Southboro, Mass.

Do you know what is on this site to-day?

February 11, 1777

To cure runaway inflation, Revolutionary and revelatory price controls were voted by the town, pegging farm labor at 3 shillings a day; sheep's wool at 2 pence per lb; best stall-fed beef at 3 pence 1 farthing per lb. the best Tavern meal at one shilling; with a mug of New England flip 8 pence. Lump butter was high at 9 pence per lb., potatoes a mere shilling per bushel; warm stockings were 6 shillings a pair and men's shoes of the best sort 7 shillings 5 pence; women's in proportion (!) Good wood at the door came at 6 shillings per cord. To compute and compare, there were 4 farthings in a penny, 12 pence in a shilling and 20 shillings to the pound.

September 22, 1815

The greatest gale known since the incorporation of the town came in from the Northeast so that "one could even taste the salt spray from the ocean. Trees fell from all points of the compass", and in one woodlot, 1200 cords of wood were blown down taking the full winter's application for a period of ten years to clean up.

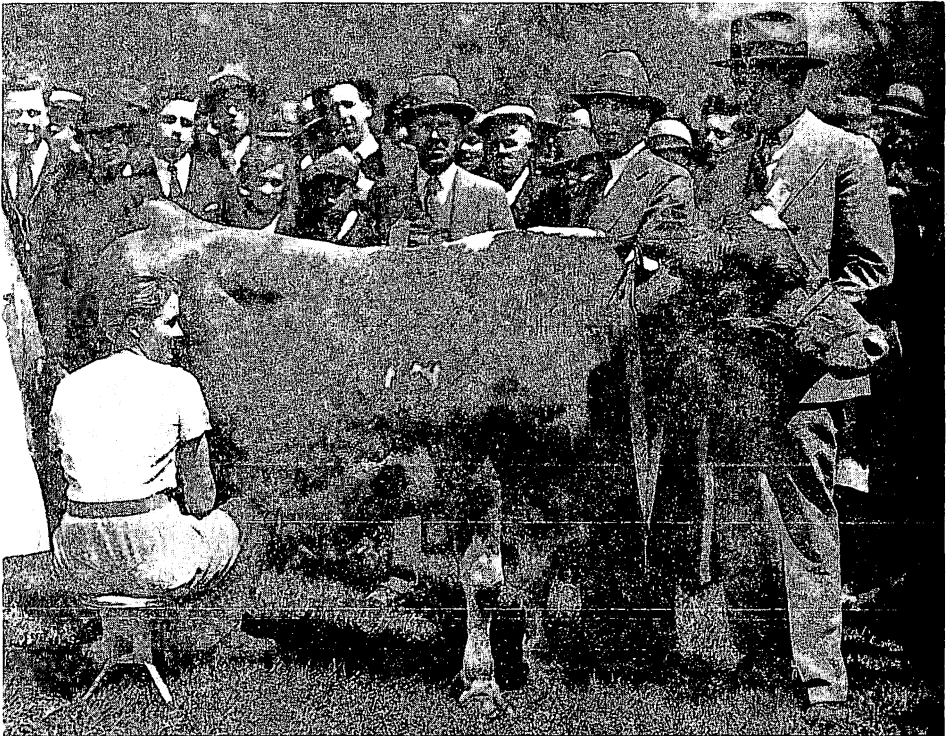
July 4, 1835

First Run of the Boston and Worcester Railroad "The road was publicly opened today. . .and curiosity was very great. When the cars came in sight, my horse took fright. . .he reared and jumped most furiously, and when he was so far recovered to permit me to look around, the train of cars had reached their destination." diary of Christopher Columbus Baldwin

Among its firsts, Southborough can lay claim to the development of the first baseball catcher's mask ever used. Appearing on St. Mark's School playing field in a game with the Harvard freshman, it was "fitted up by the local blacksmith out of a fencing mask, with large holes cut in it and the front reinforced by heavy copper wire".

The Centre Store

This emporium holds memories of the kindly face of Mr. McMaster and of 'Old Pike', the grave, bearded dispenser of gum drops, chocolate creams and vanilla wafers; and a marvelous concoction of soda called 'coffee-vanilla-cream' which in a less healthful. . .community could certainly have slain its tens of thousands.



Can you name this well-known Southborough resident who is milking the famous Deerfoot Cow that went to the South Pole with Admiral Byrd?